Amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (amended) The controlled release composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising a lipophilic or inert matrix consisting of lipophilic compounds with a melting point below 90°C and wherein the active ingredient is at least partially inglobated and a hydrophilic matrix.

Amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (twice amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, further comprising amphiphilic compounds that are polar lipids of type I or II, ceramides, glycol alkyl ethers, esters of fatty acids with polyethylene glycols or diethylene glycols.

Amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (twice amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lipophilic matrix consists of compound selected from the group consisting of unsaturated or hydrogenated alcohols or fatty acids, salts, esters or amides thereof, mono-, di- or triglycerides of fatty acids, the polyethoxylated derivatives thereof, waxes, and cholesterol derivatives.

Amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (twice amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic matrix consists of hydrogel-forming compounds.

Amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (amended) The composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hydrophilic matrix consists of compounds selected

from the group consisting of acrylic or methacrylic acid polymers or copolymers, alkylvinyl polymers, hydroxyalkylcellulose, carboxyalkyl-cellulose, polysaccharides, dextrins, pectins, starches and derivatives, alginic acid, natural or synthetic gums, and polyalcohols.

Amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (twice amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising a gastro-resistant coating.

Amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (amended) The composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the gastro-resistant coating consists of methacrylic acid polymers or cellulose derivatives.

Amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (twice amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is wholly contained in an inert/amphiphilic matrix, in the form of tablets, capsules or minitablets.

B1 contd

Amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (twice amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is dispersed both in the hydrophilic matrix and in a lipophilic/amphiphilic matrix, in the form of tablets, capsules or minitablets.

Amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (twice amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, in which the active ingredient belongs to the

therapeutical classes of analgesics, antitussives, bronchodilators, antipsychotics, selective β 2 antagonists, calcium antagonists, antiparkinson drugs, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antihistamines, antidiarrheals and intestinal antiinflammatories, apasmolytics, anxiolytics, oral antidiabetics, cathartics, antiepileptics, topical antimicrobials.

Amend claim 12 as follows:

12. (amended) The composition as claimed in claim 10, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of mesalazine (5-aminosalicylic acid), budesonide, metformin, octylonium bromide, gabapentin, carbidopa, nimesulide, propionylilcarnitine, isosorbide mono- and dinitrate, naproxen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, diclofenac, thiaprophenic acid, nimesulide, chlorhexidine, benzydamine, tibezonium iodide, cetylpyridinium chloride, benzalkonium chloride, and sodium fluoride.

B' cont'd

Amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (twice amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, containing bioadhesive substances.

Amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (twice amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 1, in the form of tablets chewable or erodible in the buccal cavity or in the first portion of the gastrointestinal tract.

Add the following new claim:

15. (new) A controlled release and taste-making composition, comprising:

a) a first matrix comprising lipophilic compounds with a melting point lower than 90°C;

b) an amphiphilic matrix; and

c) an outer hydrophilic matrix wherein the lipophilic matrix and said amphiphilic matrix are dispersed.

16. (new) The composition according to claim 15, wherein said first matrix contains amphiphilic compounds and said amphiphilic compounds are selected from the group consisting of type I polar lipids, type II polar lipids, ceramides, glycol alkyl ethers, and esters of fatty acids with polyethylene glycols or diethylene glycols.

B' cont'd

17. (new) The composition according to claim 16, wherein said type I lipids and type II lipids are selected from the group consisting of lecithin, phosphatidylcholine, and phosphatidylethanolamine.

18. (new) The composition according to claim 15, wherein said lipophilic matrix consists of compounds selected from the group consisting of unsaturated or hydrogenated alcohols or fatty acids, salts, esters or amides thereof, mono-, di- or triglycerides of fatty acids, polyethoxylated derivatives thereof, waxes, and cholesterol derivatives.

19. (new) The composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of mesalazine (5-aminosalicylic acid), budesonide, metformin, octylonium bromide, gabapentin, carbidopa, nimesulide, propionylilcarnitine, isosorbide mono- and dinitrate, naproxen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, diclofenac, thiaprophenic acid, nimesulide, chlorhexidine, benzydamine, tibezonium iodide, cetylpyridinium chloride, benzalkonium chloride, and sodium fluoride.

20. (new) A controlled release and taste-making composition, comprising:

a) an active ingredient inglobated in a matrix or coating consisting of amphiphilic compounds to form a matrix;

b) said matrix is incorporated in a low melting lipophilic excipient or mixture of excipients to form an inert matrix; and

c) said inert matrix is mixed together with one or more hydrophilic water-swellable excipients.

B' concl'd

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-14 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. New claims 15-20 have been added to vary the scope of the claimed invention. Support for new claims 15-20 may be found in original claims 1-14